

REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 19, 2004 (Paper No. 9). Claims 1 to 28 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 15 and 22 are independent. Claims 1, 8, 14, 15 and 22 are being amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, Claims 1 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,574,002 (Paczewitz) and U.S. Patent No. 6,441,924 (Matsui).

The present invention generally concerns a printer driver, which is executable by an information processing apparatus, forming print data interpretable by a printing apparatus. Two modes may be set using a user interface of the printer driver. In one of the modes, a mail box mode, print data formed by the printer driver can be accumulated in one or more mail boxes of the printing apparatus without printing the print data. Using another mode, i.e., the printer output mode, the print data is printed by the printing apparatus. If the mail box mode is set, the print data is formed and includes information indicating a destination of the one or more mail boxes. In addition, if the mail box mode is set, a document name for the print data can be set using the printer driver's user interface. In a case where a document name is designated using the printer driver's user interface at the information processing apparatus, the designated document name is displayed on an operation panel of the printing apparatus.

By virtue of this arrangement, using a printer driver's user interface at an information processing apparatus, a user can set a mail box mode to accumulate print data

in one or more mail boxes of the printing apparatus, and can also designate a document name for print data at the information processing apparatus, with the document name designated at the information processing apparatus being viewable at the printing apparatus.

Turning to the specific language of the claims, Claim 1 defines an information processing apparatus executing a printer driver for forming print data which can be interpreted by a printing apparatus in accordance with document data formed by an application. The information processing apparatus comprises a setting means, a name designation means and a forming means. In response to an operation input using a user interface of the printer driver, the setting means sets either a mail box mode to accumulate the print data into at least one of a plurality of mail boxes of the printing apparatus without printing it or sets a printer output mode to sequentially print the print data received by the printing apparatus. Where the mail box mode has been set by the setting means, the name designation means allows designation of a document name of the print data using the printer driver's user interface. The forming means forms the print data by adding the information indicative of a destination of the at least one of a plurality of mail boxes of the printing apparatus in accordance with the mail box mode set by the setting means. The document name designated by the name designating means can be voluntarily designated via the printer driver's user interface screen at the information processing apparatus and is to be displayed on an operation panel of the printing apparatus.

The applied art, namely Paczewitz and Matsui, is not seen to show: 1) a user interface of a printer driver at an information processing apparatus in response to an

operation input using which is set either a mail box mode, in which print data is accumulated in at least one of a plurality of mail boxes of a printing apparatus without printing, or a printer output mode, in which print data is sequentially printed by the printing apparatus, and 2) where the mail box mode is set, the printer driver's user interface can be used to designate a document name for the print data at the information processing apparatus, wherein the document name designated via the printer driver's user interface at the information processing apparatus is to be displayed on an operation panel of the printing apparatus.

It is conceded in the Office Action, at page 3, that Paczewitz fails to disclose a mail box mode, which when set accumulates print data into a printing apparatus without printing. In addition, the Office concedes that Paczewitz fails to disclose a control panel of a printing apparatus for displaying a document name designated for the print data. However, the Office Action indicates that Figures 7 to 9, and the description found at col. 2, lines 2 to 8 and 53 to 65, of Matsui disclose these features.

Matsui is seen to describe a system in which documents received by a facsimile apparatus are forwarded to a mailbox located on one of the computers connected to the facsimile apparatus via a network. (See Matsui, Figure 9, Abstract and col. 2, lines 2 to 8 and 53 to 65) Figure 7 of Matsui is seen to show transmission of a document from a sender facsimile to receiver facsimile. As shown in Figures 8 and 9, the receiver facsimile C12 (or C23 in Figure 9) stores the received document in a mail box in memory and stores a corresponding entry in a look-up table stored in the memory of the facsimile machine, as described at col. 5, lines 1 to 7 of Matsui. Referring to col. 5, lines 19 to 32, Matsui is seen

to describe that a user can remotely control the facsimile machine from a personal computer C22 by entering at the personal computer a mail box number and a password to send the contents of a mail box to the receiving facsimile machine, and that a user can use the facsimile machine's user interface C20 to enter a mail box number, password and print instruction to print the contents of a mail box.

However, nothing in Matsui, and in particular the cited portion thereof, is seen to show: 1) a user interface of a printer driver at an information processing apparatus by which is set either a mail box mode, in which print data is accumulated in at least one of a plurality of mail boxes of a printing apparatus without printing, or a printer output mode, in which print data is sequentially printed by the printing apparatus, and 2) where the mail box mode is set, the printer driver's user interface can be used to designate a document name for the print data at the information processing apparatus, wherein the document name designated via the printer driver's user interface at the information processing apparatus is to be displayed on an operation panel of the printing apparatus.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 8, 15 and 22, which have corresponding features, are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

The remaining claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carole A. Quinn", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Carole A. Quinn
Registration No.: 39,000

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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